



DARK NIGHTS

1

**DARK NIGHTS
METAL
TIE-IN**

BATMAN

THE DEVASTATOR



**Tieri
Daniel
Miki
Morey**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM JAN 2018

**THE DARK MULTIVERSE.
NOW!**

I SHOULD HAVE
SEEN IT FROM THE
BEGINNING, CLARK.

I SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THROUGH
THE BRIGHT
COLORS, THOSE
FRIENDLY EYES,
AND THAT BOY
SCOUT GRIN.

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN WHAT
YOU WERE DOING
TO *ME*. WHAT YOU
WERE DOING TO
ALL OF US.

YOU TOLD US TO
LOVE EACH OTHER.
TO TEAR DOWN THE
WALLS THAT KEPT
US FROM TRUSTING
EACH OTHER.

BATMAN

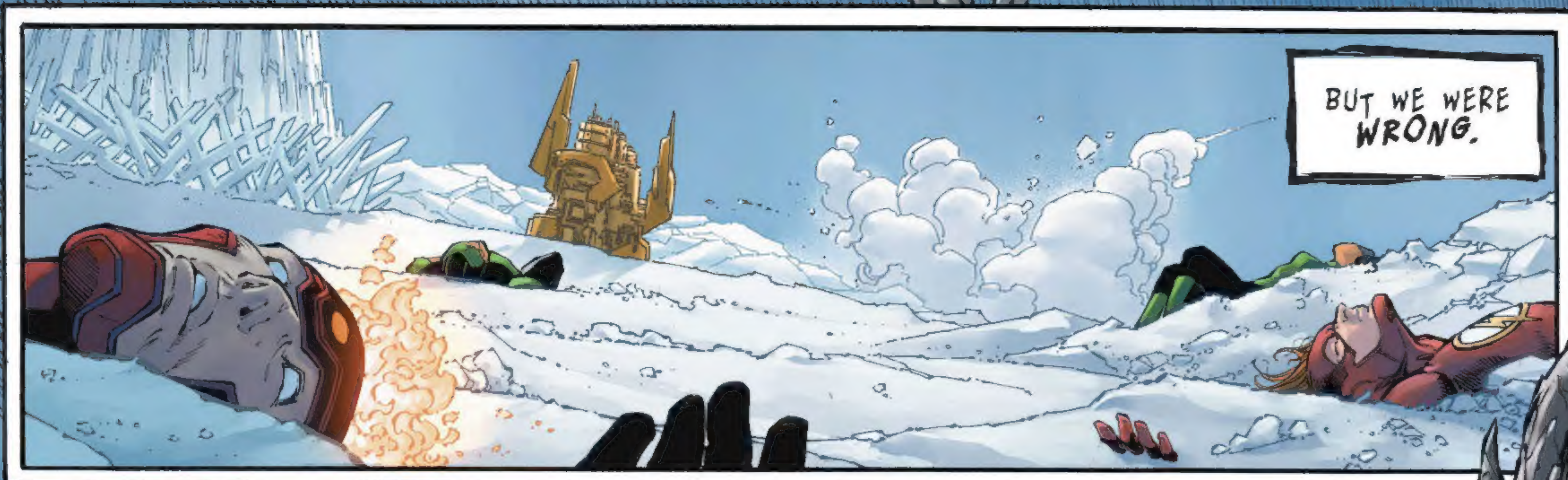
THE DEVASTATOR

IN *Symphony of* DESTRUCTION

FRANK TIERI PLOT JAMES TYNION WORDS
TONY S. DANIEL PENCILS DANNY MIKI INKS
TOMEU MOREY COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
JASON FABOK AND BRAD ANDERSON COVER
ANDREW MARINO ASSISTANT EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER AND GREG CAPULLO
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
SUPERGIRL BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

WE **WANTED** TO
BELIEVE YOU. WE WANTED
MORE THAN ANYTHING
TO BELIEVE THAT THE
STRONGEST MAN IN THE
WORLD WAS THERE TO
SAVE US.

THAT WE COULD LET
GO OF OUR FEARS
AND **HOPE** AGAIN.



BUT WE WERE
WRONG.

I REMIND MYSELF THAT
THIS ISN'T MY WORLD.
OUR WORLD.

BUT I SEE THE
SAME ECHOES
EVERYWHERE I LOOK.

BARBATOS TASKED ME
WITH A CRUCIAL MISSION.
TO RETRIEVE THE COSMIC
TUNING FORK UNDER
THE FORTRESS OF
SOLITUDE, AND BRING
IT TO GOTHAM CITY.

WHEN THE HEROES CAME TO
STOP ME, THEY TREATED YOUR
FORTRESS LIKE HALLOWED
GROUND. THEY DID NOT WANT
TO DISTURB A MONUMENT
BUILT TO YOUR GOODNESS.

THEY HAD HEARD THAT THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE WAS MAKING
ONE LAST STAND AGAINST
BARBATOS. THAT SUPERMAN
HIMSELF WAS ON A MISSION
TO SAVE THE WORLD.

EACH OF THEM ASKED
THEMSELVES WHAT SUPERMAN
WOULD HAVE DONE, AND
THEY CAME HERE WITH LOVE
IN THEIR HEARTS.

AND THEY FELL
SO EASILY, CLARK.

I TOOK
THEM DOWN
ONE BY ONE.

GEEZ, BONE FACE...
YA SURE ARE
THE UGLIEST
FRAGGIN' BATMAN
I'VE EVER SEEN.

EARTH-O.
THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.
EARLIER TODAY.



HATE TO SEE
WHAT YOUR
ROBIN LOOKS
LIKE



YOU DON'T
IMPRESS
ME, LOBO.

CHUK!



YOU
DEPRESS
ME.

ON MY
WORLD YOU WERE
ONE OF THE MOST
FIERCELY INDEPENDENT
AND DANGEROUS
BEINGS IN THE
UNIVERSE.

AND
HERE, YOU
STAND WITH
COMPASSIONATE
FOOLS.

AW,
HELL...



THE ROT
GOES DEEP
IN THIS SICK,
SAD WORLD,
DOESN'T IT?



I AM
HERE TO
BURN IT
OUT OF
YOU.



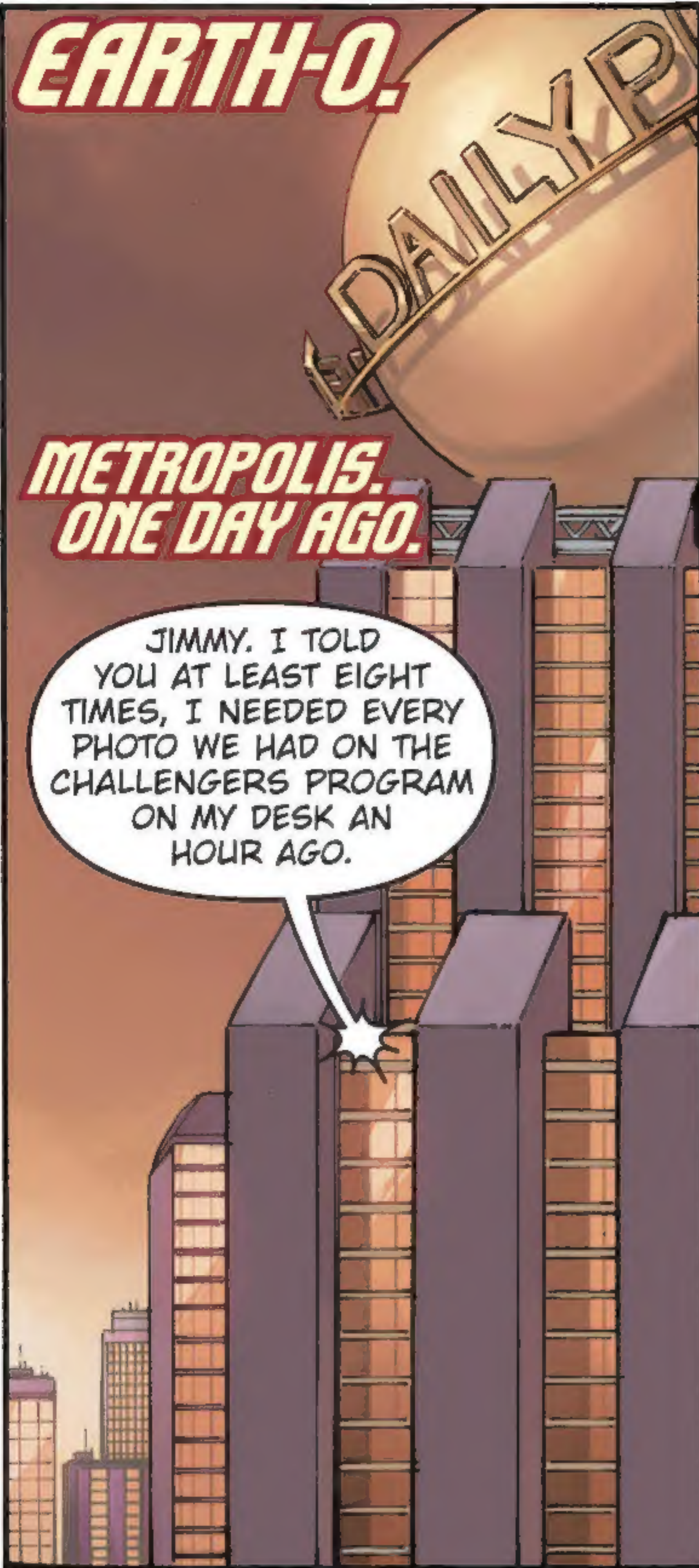
HOPE IS LIKE A VIRUS,
CLARK. IT FORCES
PEOPLE TO LET THEIR
GUARDS DOWN.

IT BLINDS THEM TO
THE DARKNESS OF THE
WORLD AROUND THEM,
THE DANGER LURKING
BEHIND EVERY CORNER.



UNTIL THEY
CAN'T FIGHT
BACK ANYMORE.

FRAG
IT ALL.

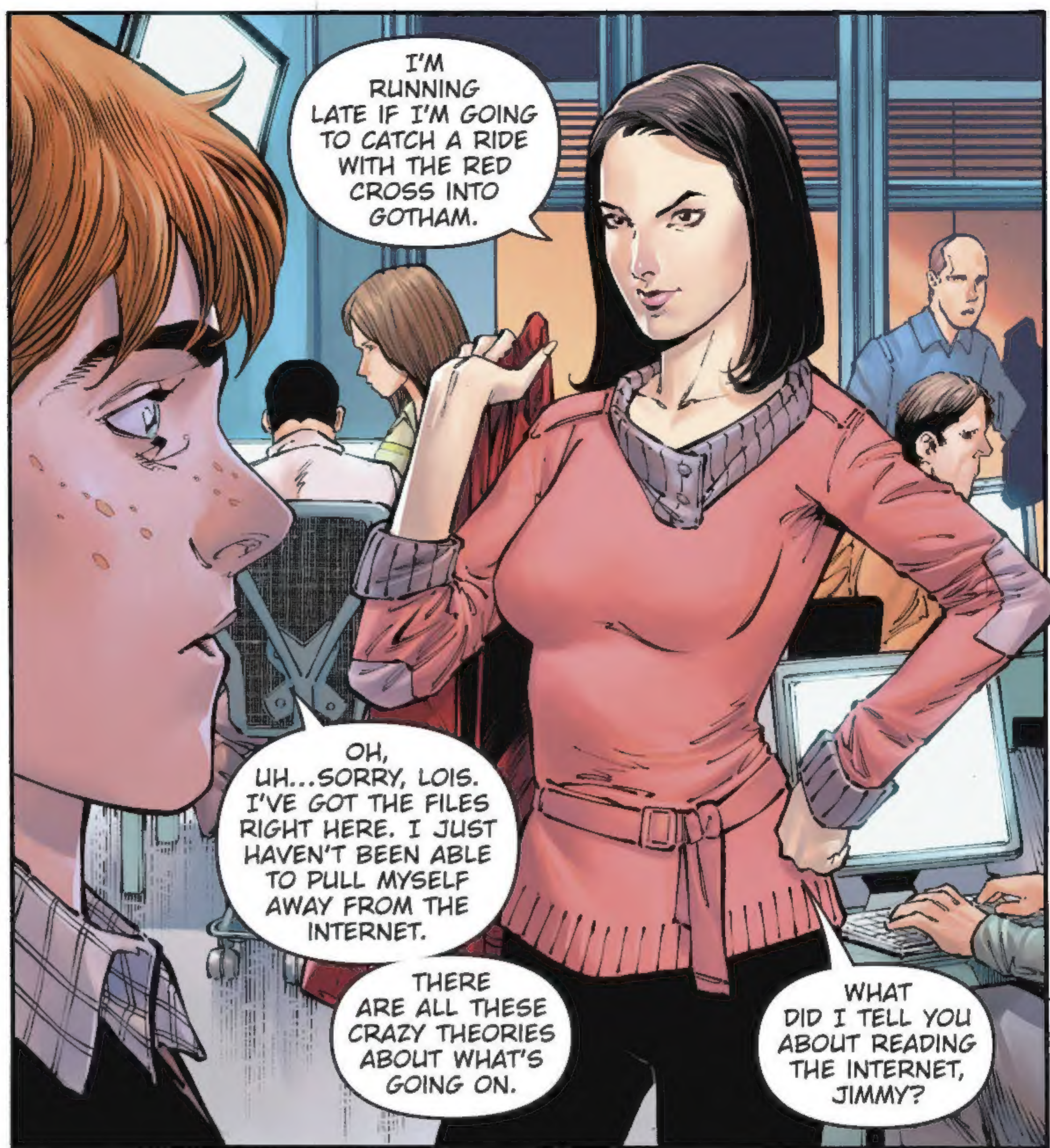


EARTH-O.

DAILY PLANET

**METROPOLIS.
ONE DAY AGO.**

JIMMY. I TOLD YOU AT LEAST EIGHT TIMES, I NEEDED EVERY PHOTO WE HAD ON THE CHALLENGERS PROGRAM ON MY DESK AN HOUR AGO.



I'M RUNNING LATE IF I'M GOING TO CATCH A RIDE WITH THE RED CROSS INTO GOTHAM.

OH, UH...SORRY, LOIS. I'VE GOT THE FILES RIGHT HERE. I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PULL MYSELF AWAY FROM THE INTERNET.

THERE ARE ALL THESE CRAZY THEORIES ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT READING THE INTERNET, JIMMY?



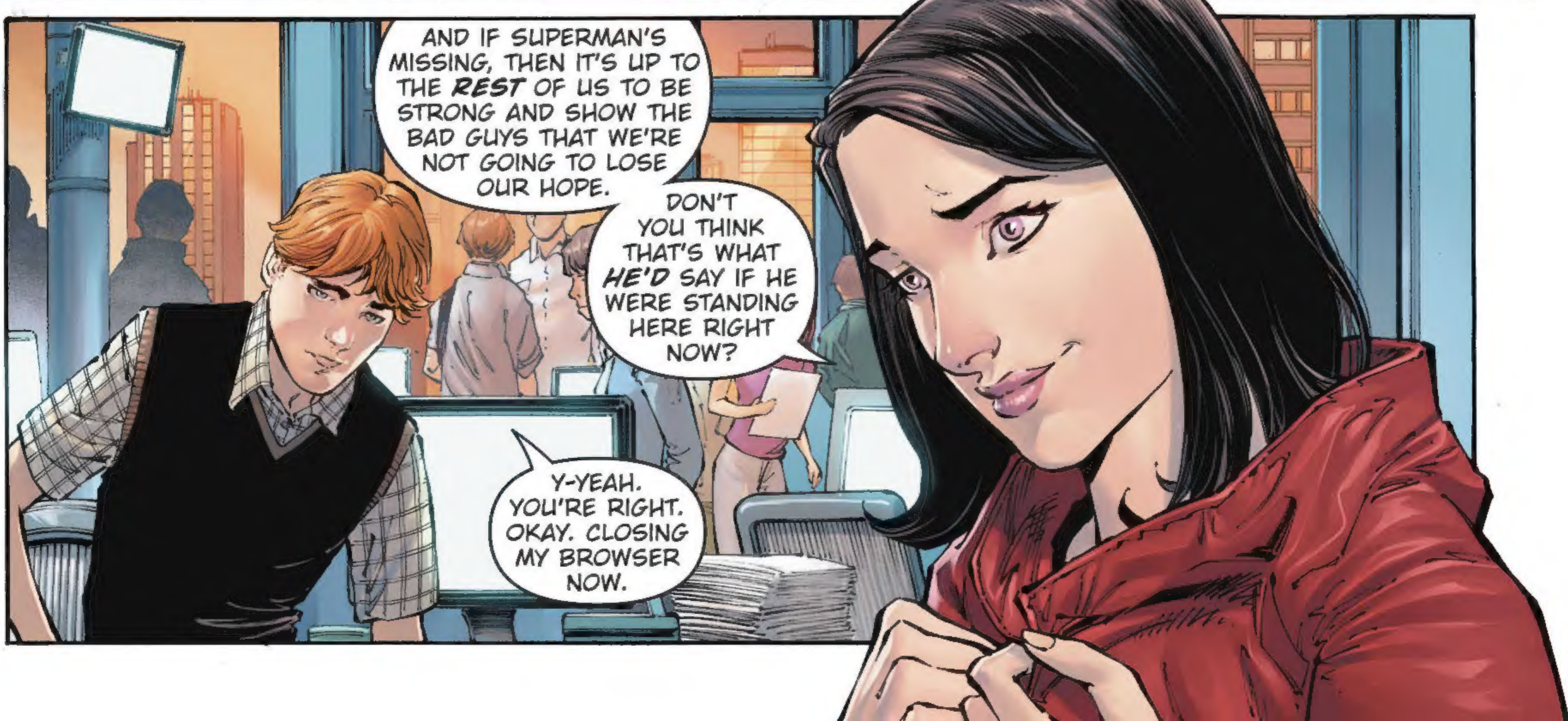
THEY'RE SAYING THAT WASHINGTON, D.C., JUST WENT DARK...THAT'S SIX CITIES IN AS MANY DAYS. AND NOBODY'S SEEN SUPERMAN SINCE IT ALL STARTED...

AREN'T YOU SCARED?



NO. MAYBE I SHOULD BE, BUT I'M NOT.

OF COURSE I SEE THAT THINGS ARE BAD RIGHT NOW, BUT I **BELIEVE** WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING THAT THE GOOD GUYS ARE GOING TO WIN.



AND IF SUPERMAN'S MISSING, THEN IT'S UP TO THE **REST** OF US TO BE STRONG AND SHOW THE BAD GUYS THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOSE OUR HOPE.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT **HE'D** SAY IF HE WERE STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW?

Y-YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT. OKAY. CLOSING MY BROWSER NOW.



LOIS.

I'M SORRY, I'M RUNNING--
WAIT--



BRUCE?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? THE WORLD'S FALLING APART, YOU SHOULD BE--

I'M SORRY, LOIS. I NEEDED TO COME HERE.

I NEEDED TO TALK TO YOU.



JUST... OKAY, I'VE BEEN PUTTING ON A BRAVE FACE IN THE OFFICE AND AT HOME, WITH JON, BUT I NEED TO KNOW...

IS CLARK OKAY?



NO, LOIS. CLARK ISN'T OKAY.
CLARK IS THE PROBLEM.



BRUCE... BRUCE, LET GO OF ME...

KRAK

YOUR HAND...



WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOURSELF...?

I MADE IT SO HE COULD NEVER HURT ME AGAIN.



NO...



I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME, LOIS. I WANTED TO DO WHAT I NEVER COULD ON MY WORLD.

I WANTED TO **SAVE** YOU FROM **HIM**.

**EARTH-1
METROPOLIS.
MANY YEARS AGO.**

WE NEVER LEARNED
HOW IT HAPPENED. I
THINK THAT'S WHAT
WAS SO FRIGHTENING
AT THE BEGINNING.

WAS IT A SOLAR STORM
THAT ALTERED HIS MIND? WAS
IT DARKSEID, OR MR. MIND,
OR A NEW KIND OF KRYPTONITE
LUTHOR HAD DEVELOPED?

WE SPENT *WEEKS* TRYING TO
FIND THE ANSWER, BECAUSE
WE KNEW IN OUR HEARTS
THAT IT COULDN'T BE HIM.

HE WAS OUR GREAT *HOPE*.
HE WAS THE *BEST OF US*. HE
WOULD NEVER TEAR DOWN
BUILDINGS WITH HIS BARE
HANDS FOR THE SPORT OF IT.

WE KNEW THAT IF WE
COULD BREAK THROUGH TO
THE MAN WE KNEW AND
LOVED WE COULD *STOP*
THIS. HE COULD BE *SAVED*.

IT WASN'T UNTIL HE
KILLED HIS WIFE, OUR
WORLD'S LOIS LANE,
THAT I FINALLY BROKE.

THAT WAS THE
MOMENT I FINALLY
UNDERSTOOD THE WHYS
AND HOWS DIDN'T
MATTER ANYMORE.

IT HURT,
CLARK.

I HOPE YOU
UNDERSTAND HOW
DEEPLY IT HURT.

MAKING THE
DECISION TO SET IT
ALL IN MOTION.

IT'S
OVER.



HH.



I NEVER UNDERSTOOD, BRUCE.

THE OTHER LEAGUERS IN THEIR QUIET CONVERSATIONS. THEY ALWAYS SAID THAT YOU COULD **BEAT** ME, HEAD TO HEAD. IF WE **REALLY** FOUGHT. IF **NEITHER** OF US HELD BACK.

WITH ONLY A LOOK, I COULD SPLIT YOU IN HALF. WITH ONLY A BREATH, I COULD FREEZE YOUR HEART. WITH THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH, I COULD BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY.

AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE, BRUCE? A **SPEAR**?



DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW WEAK YOU ALL ARE TO ME?



SKOFFE
YES, DAMMIT. I DO.



ZZRAPP



I REALLY... LOVED YOU, CLARK.

I BELIEVED IN THE WORLD YOU PROMISED US.

YOU MADE ME HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.



BUT NOW, I KNOW THAT IT WAS ALL A LIE.

BEEP



AND I WON'T LET YOU **HURT** ME ANYMORE.

KRAK

I HAD BEEN SO
AFRAID OF THAT
MOMENT.

KRAK KRAK KRAK

I KNEW THE STRAIN OF
THE **DOOMSDAY VIRUS** I HAD
ENGINEERED WOULD MAKE ME
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEFEAT
YOU ONE ON ONE.

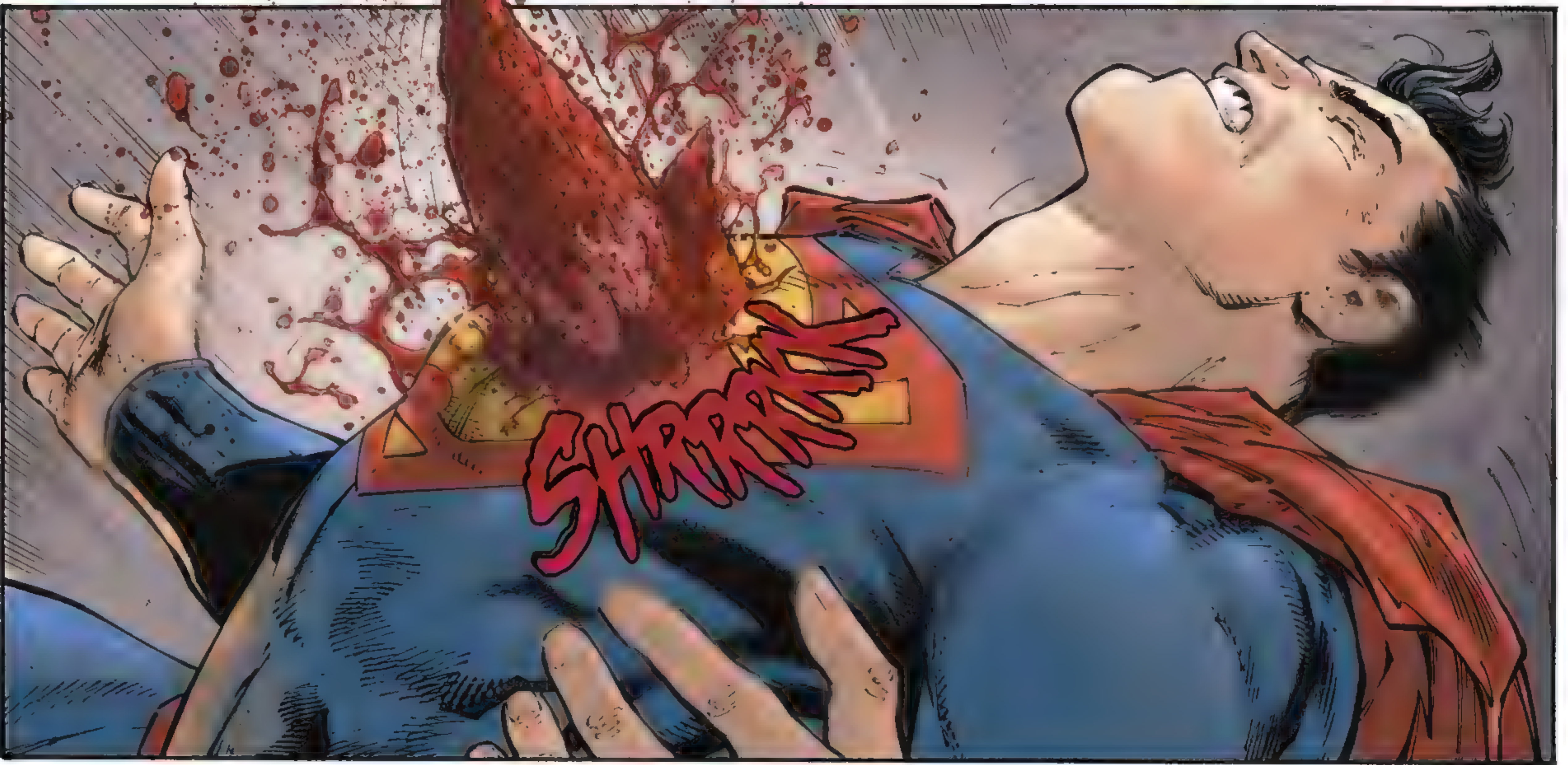
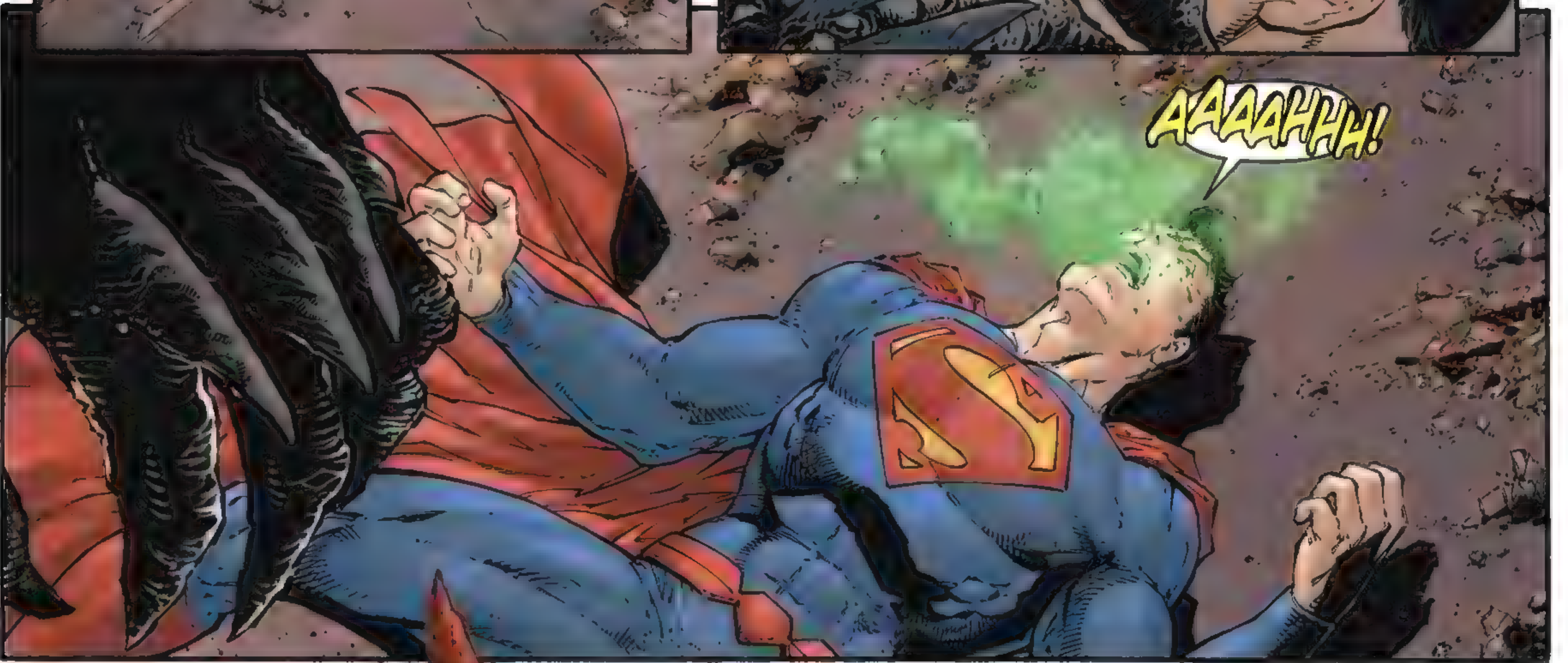
BUT I THOUGHT, EVEN AFTER
SEEING ALL THE TERROR YOU
HAD UNLEASHED UPON THE
WORLD, THAT I WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO DO IT.

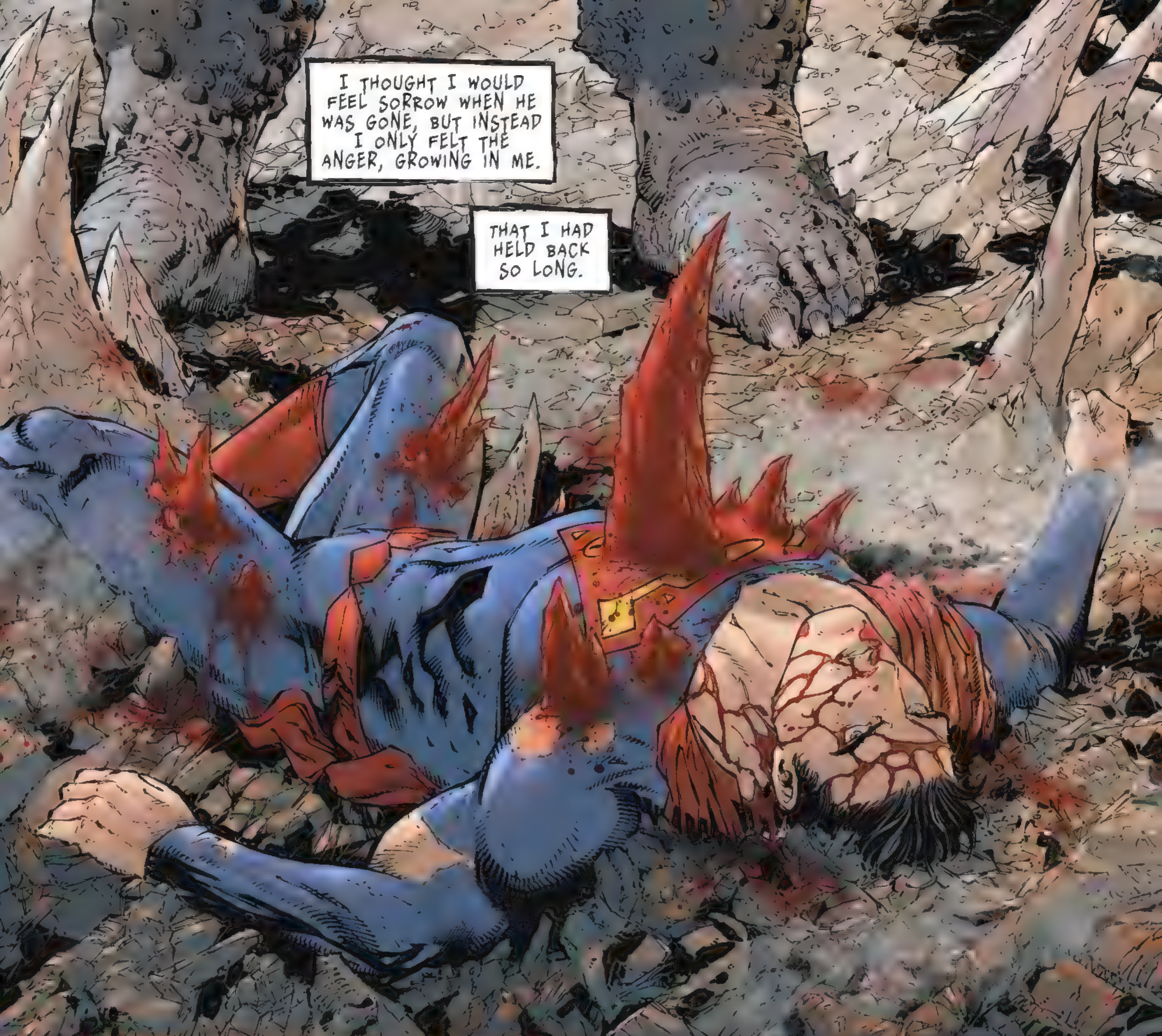
THAT THERE WOULD
STILL BE A PART OF ME
SCREAMING OUT TO LET
MY BEST FRIEND LIVE.

INSTEAD, MY FEELINGS DULLED.
AS THE BONY ARMOR GREW OVER
MY BODY, I FELT IT INSIDE,
HARDENING MY HEART AS WELL...

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
A LONG TIME, I FELT
FREE OF THE LOVE YOU
HAD INFLICTED ON ME.


AND IT FELT
#!% **GREAT.**






I THOUGHT I WOULD
FEEL SORROW WHEN HE
WAS GONE, BUT INSTEAD
I ONLY FELT THE
ANGER, GROWING IN ME.

THAT I HAD
HELD BACK
SO LONG.



I COULD HAVE SAVED
EVERYONE FROM THE
WEAKNESS HE HAD
INFLECTED ON US. MY
DOOMSDAY VIRUS WOULD
HAVE SPREAD, BODY TO
BODY, INNOCULATING
THE WORLD AGAINST
SUPERMAN.

BUT I HAD
USED IT
TOO LATE.



OR SO I
THOUGHT.

THERE'S
SOMETHING SO
SATISFYING IN HEARING
THAT PARTICULAR DEATH
BATTLE, ISN'T
THERE?

I THINK WE
ALL KNOW A FEW WAYS
TO BRING THE BLUE BOY
SCOUT DOWN, BUT WE
NEVER REALLY THINK WE'LL
HAVE TO USE THEM
UNTIL IT'S TOO
LATE.

JOKER?
I THOUGHT
HE KILLED
YOU...

OH NO, YOU
MISUNDERSTAND.
THE TWO OF US
WE'RE IN A DEE,
YOU SEE?

WE'RE BOTH
BRUCE WAYNE
GONE TERRIBLY
WRONG.

FROM A
BROKEN PLANET
THAT WAS NEVER
MEANT TO BE.

BUT I
WANT TO GIVE
YOU A SECOND
CHANCE.

THIS WHOLE PLACE? IT'S
GOING TO CRUMBLE AWAY
INTO COSMIC NOTHING
IN THE NEXT FEW
MINUTES.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THERE WAS
A WORLD WHERE EVERYBODY STILL
LOVES AND TRUSTS SUPERMAN?
WHERE THEY STILL THINK HE'S
GOING TO SAVE THE DAY NO
MATTER WHAT HAPPENS?

AND WHAT
IF I SAID OUR
GREAT BIG PLAN
MEANT SHOWING
EVERYONE WHAT
HE REALLY
IS?

BRING ME
THERE.

EARTH-O.
METROPOLIS.
ONE DAY AGO.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
THEM?

THEY'RE
GETTING
STRONGER.

THEIR HEARTS
ARE CLOSING
OFF TO THE WORLD,
AND THEIR BODIES
ARE SHARPENING
INTO DANGEROUS
WEAPONS.

IN A FEW
MINUTES, EACH
OF THEM WILL BE
CAPABLE OF KILLING
SUPERMAN. THE
ENTIRE CITY.

I COULDN'T
SAVE THEM IN
MY WORLD, BUT I
CAN SAVE THEM
HERE.



I WON'T
LET YOU DO
THIS!

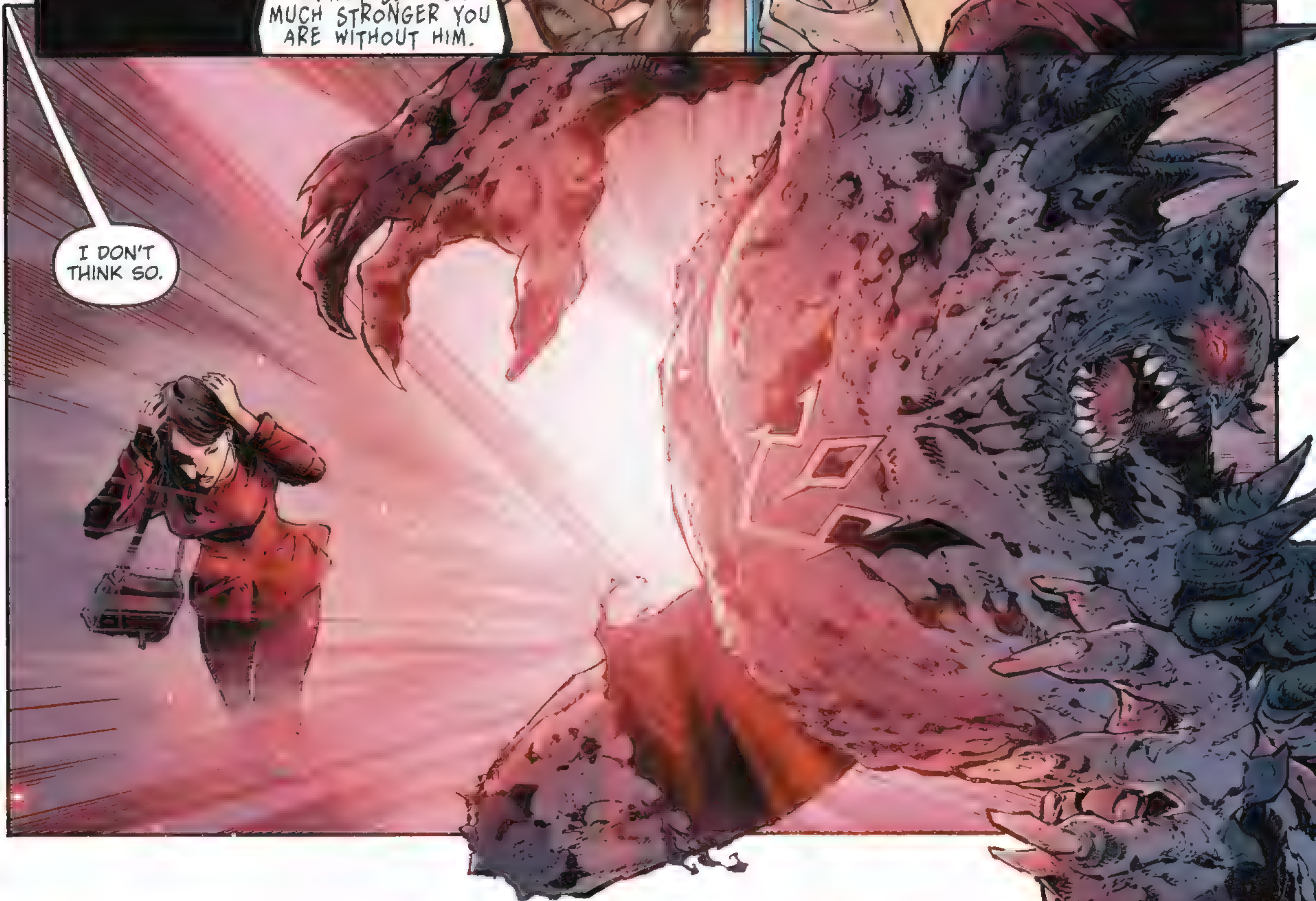
DON'T YOU SEE,
LOIS? YOU ARE THE
CARRIER INFECTING
THE CITY.

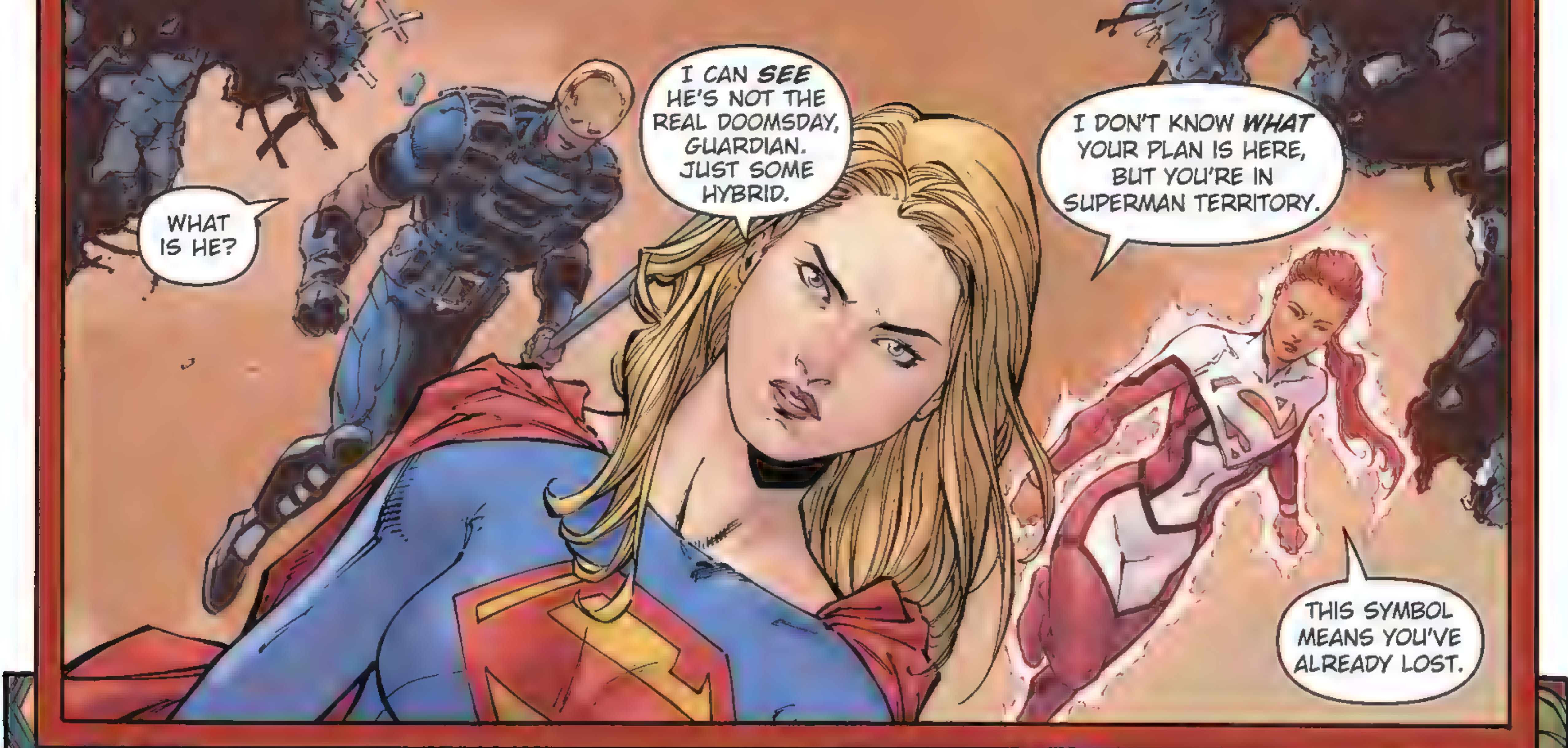
THE ONLY
REASON YOU
HAVEN'T TRANSFORMED
ALREADY IS ALL THE TIME
YOU'VE SPENT SOAKING
IN SUPERMAN'S EXCESS
SOLAR RADIATION.

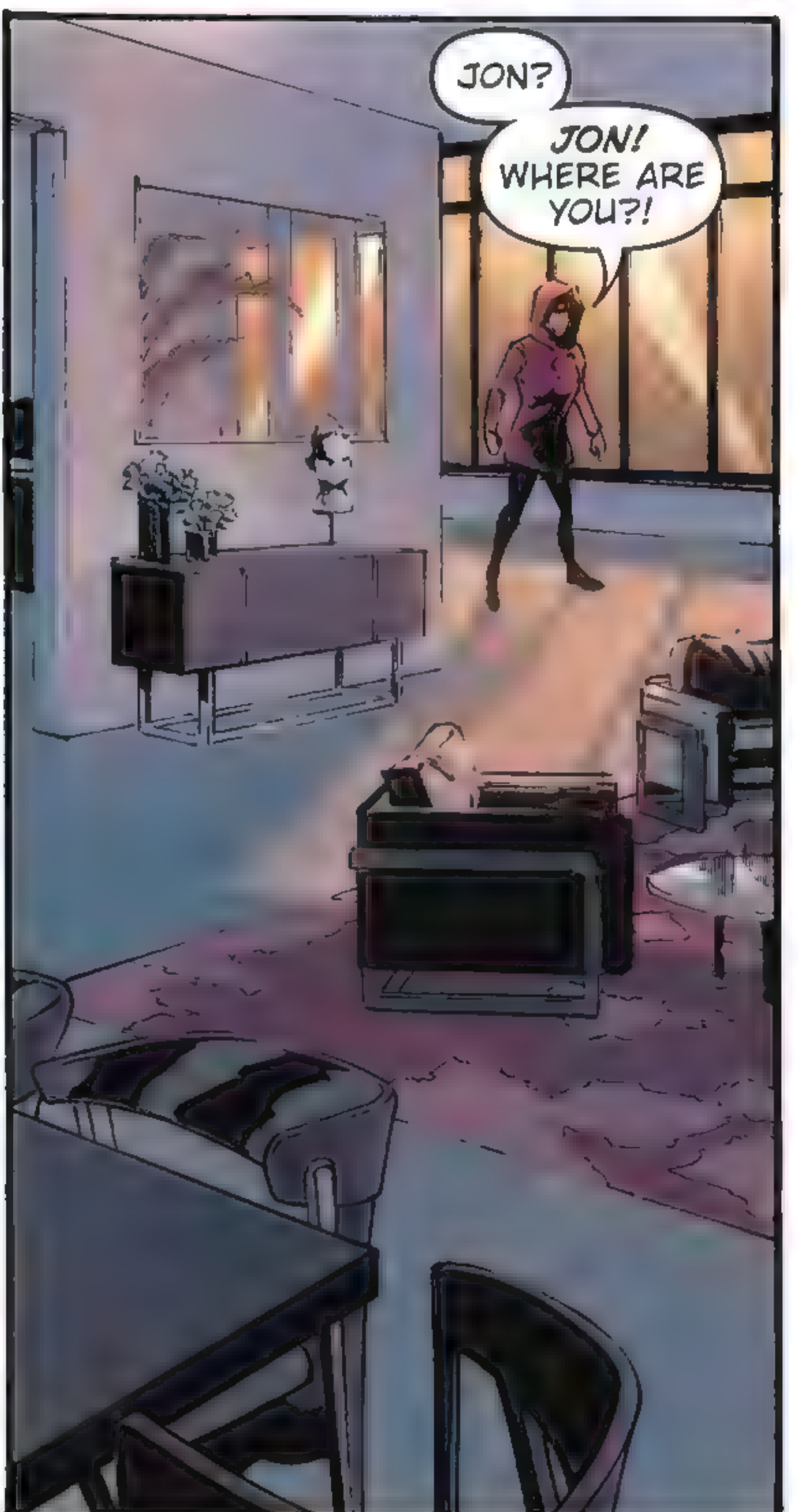
WHEN
THE CHANGE
COMES, YOU'LL
FINALLY SEE HOW
MUCH STRONGER YOU
ARE WITHOUT HIM.



I DON'T
THINK SO.









THAT
MONSTER BATMAN
DOOMSDAY THING IS
HURTING KARA,
MOM.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH HER.
IT'S CHANGING
HER BODY
INTO ONE OF
THEM...

I...I DON'T
THINK THEY'RE
GOING TO BEAT
HIM. I NEED TO
HELP.



LIKE
HELL YOU
DO.



M-MOM?
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU? YOU
LOOK...

JON, I NEED
YOU TO LISTEN
TO ME **VERY**
CLOSELY.

YOUR
FATHER AND I,
WE BUILT A **SAFE**
ROOM INTO THIS
APARTMENT, IN
CASE...IN CASE
THE **WORST**
HAPPENED.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



THE WALLS ARE GOING
TO SEAL OFF, AND THERE'S
NOTHING IN THIS WORLD
THAT COULD BREAK
THEM OPEN. NOT EVEN
YOUR FATHER.

YOU'LL HAVE
EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO SURVIVE
IN THERE.

IT'LL
BE LONELY,
BUT...

YOU'RE
REALLY
FREAKING
ME OUT...



SHUNNKK
I
KNOW,
JON. I
KNOW.

WAIT...
WHY ARE YOU
ON THE OTHER
SIDE? MOM...WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?

I'M SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY,
JON...I'LL STAY AS
LONG AS I CAN.



BUT...DAD'S
GOING TO **WIN**,
RIGHT? DAD AND THE
WHOLE JUSTICE
LEAGUE...

...THEY'RE
GOING TO FIGHT
BACK, AND
BEAT THE BAD
GUYS.

I'M NOT GOING
TO BE IN THIS ROOM FOR
LONG. THAT'S **CRAZY**. THE
GOOD GUYS **ALWAYS** WIN.



THAT'S WHAT DAD **SAID**.
HE SAID THAT THERE'S
GOOD IN **EVERYONE**.
HE SAYS THAT WE
CAN NEVER LOSE
HOPE.

YOU
STILL BELIEVE
THAT, DON'T
YOU?

MOM?



MOM?!

I WANT YOU
TO KNOW THAT
I **SAVED**
THEM, CLARK.

LOIS, JIMMY,
ALL OF THEM.
YOUR **WHOLE**
DAMNED CITY.

I FINALLY GAVE THEM THE
STRENGTH THEY NEEDED TO SEE
THROUGH THAT EASY SMILE, AND
THAT DAMNED COLORFUL SHIELD.

I HARDENED THEIR HEARTS SO
THAT THEY'LL NEVER **BELIEVE**
IN THE CRUEL FAIRY TALE WORLD
YOU TOLD THEM WAS THE TRUTH.

AND NOW, AT THE END, WHEN THEY LOOK UP
IN THE SKY, AND THEY SEE THEIR WORLD
FALL INTO DARKNESS, THEY WILL FINALLY
UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.

AND, FINALLY,
YOU WILL, TOO.

UP,
UP AND
AWAY.

THESE PEOPLE, THEIR
BELIEF IS POWERFUL.
MORE POWERFUL THAN
I EVER UNDERSTOOD
BEFORE BARBATOS
LAID IT ALL BARE.

YOUR WORLD IS THE CENTER
OF CREATION, THE HEART OF THE
MULTIVERSE, AND YOUR FEARS
CREATED THE CURSED, BROKEN
WORLDS WE CAME FROM...

BUT ULTIMATELY,
THAT'S NOT WHAT
WILL DOOM YOUR
WORLD.

THEY BELIEVE IN *YOU* SO
DAMN MUCH THAT YOUR
FAILURE AT MY MASTER'S
HAND IS A POWER IN AND
OF ITSELF.

GOTHAM CITY.
EARLIER TODAY.

A COSMIC POWER
STRONG ENOUGH
TO RESHAPE THE
VERY FOUNDATION
OF REALITY.

AND WITH THE TUNING
FORK, WE HAVE THE TOOL
NEEDED TO *HARNESS*
THAT INCREDIBLE POWER.

LOOK...
UP IN THE
SKY...

OH...OH
GOD...

**THE DARK MULTIVERSE.
NOW!**

AT THE END, I HOPE
YOU UNDERSTAND THE
TRUTH, CLARK.

I HOPE THAT SOMEHOW YOU
CAN **HEAR** MY VOICE FROM
YOUR PRISON IN THE HEART
OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE.

I HOPE YOU
CAN FEEL
MY **HATE**.

BECAUSE **YOU** DID THIS. LIKE
YOU DID ON MY WORLD. LIKE
YOU DO ON **EVERY** WORLD.

YOU **MADE**
THEM BELIEVE.

YOU FOOLED THEM INTO THINKING
THAT YOU WOULD **ALWAYS** BE THERE
FOR THEM, TO SAVE THEM, TO LIFT
THEM UP, TO MAKE THEM BETTER.

AND THAT BELIEF
IS **EXACTLY** WHAT
WILL DRAG YOUR
ENTIRE WORLD TO
DEVASTATION.

**NEXT:
THE DARK KNIGHTS
CONTINUE TO RISE IN
THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS #1!**